

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
AND
KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 11, 2004**

Summary Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Board of Education met in a special joint meeting February 11, 2004, at 7:45 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Steve Barger, chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that the regular meeting agenda would be discussed after remarks by Governor Ernie Fletcher and Secretary of the Education Cabinet Ginni Fox.

ROLL CALL

The following Kentucky Board of Education members were present: Janice Allen, Alcie Combs, Dorie Combs, Gail Henson, Jeffrey Mando, Helen Mountjoy, Hilma Prather, Sam Robinson, David Tachau, Keith Travis, Paul Whalen, and Tom Layzell. No members were absent.

The following members of the Council on Postsecondary Education were present: Steve Barger, J. P. Davis, Richard Freed, Esther Jansing, Joan Taylor, John Turner, Ken Winters, and Gene Wilhoit. Walter Baker, Peggy Bertelsman, Ron Greenberg, Susan Guess, John Hall, Charlie Owen, Lois Combs Weinberg, and Charles Whitehead did not attend.

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR FLETCHER

Governor Fletcher thanked the members of the Council and the KBE for their commitment to serve and for their dedication to ensure that every child in Kentucky has the opportunity for an outstanding education.

Governor Fletcher discussed the budget situation and his commitment to education. He said that, despite the challenges, education is a priority because it is a critical component of the vision to expand economic opportunity and to make Kentucky more competitive. He said that a sound education system would supply Kentucky with the human capital it needs to attract and retain people in high-tech, high-paying jobs that are the hallmark of the new knowledge economy.

The Governor said that this is a time to make government and education run more efficiently and to increase productivity. He said that some schools are doing more with less and these schools need to be a model for the rest of the state.

The Governor is hopeful that budget cuts to the postsecondary education institutions will not result in tuition hikes. He asked the institutions to find ways to eliminate inefficiency and waste before resorting to tuition increases.

Governor Fletcher said that the goal of the Read to Achieve program is to ensure that all children read at or above grade level by the end of the third grade. This is necessary for students to achieve the academic goals established by KERA and to be successful in life.

REMARKS BY SECRETARY GINNI FOX

Secretary Fox said that she is truly honored to serve as secretary of the cabinet and sit at the table at which all of education sits for the first time in the history of Kentucky. She indicated she is confident that the education leadership of this state will be able to take the limited resources available and return it tenfold in money and services to the people of Kentucky. She said that the universities are vital to the success of the Read to Achieve program. She asked support for the work of the American Diploma Project to create high school diploma standards to be used by colleges, universities, and employers in their admissions, placement, and hiring decisions. She said that education is tied to the health of our population and that the schools and the universities have the intellectual capacity and the manpower to give the leadership to improve the health of our people. She thanked Governor Fletcher for giving her the opportunity to work with the Council and the Kentucky Board of Education.

Mr. Barger thanked Governor Fletcher and Secretary Fox for attending and for their remarks.

REMARKS BY KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR

Ms. Mountjoy said that the Council and the State Board created the P-16 Council in 1999 to help the two bodies work together on issues of mutual interest. She noted that the leadership of that body alternates each year between the two groups.

REMARKS BY PRE-K TO 16 COUNCIL CHAIR

Gail Henson, chair of the P-16 Council, gave a brief report on the group's activities. She indicated initiatives include reducing the need for postsecondary remediation in English and mathematics and improving preparation and professional development of teachers. To focus the work of its partner agencies, Henson noted the P-16 Council has approved a statement of vision, mission, goals, and objectives, and stated the staffs of the partner agencies are establishing indicators and measures of progress for attaining these goals. She said the P-16 Council is considering the adding of members such as representatives from the business area.

Ms. Henson said that for the past two years, the staffs of the KBE and the Council, faculty from Kentucky's public and independent postsecondary institutions, teachers from local school districts, and members of several of Kentucky's local P-16 councils jointly contributed research that led to the development of the American Diploma Project benchmarks in English language arts and mathematics. She commented that by aligning high school graduation standards in these areas with the entrance level expectations of postsecondary education and the skilled workplace,

students will be assured that the standards they are required to meet in high school are directly linked to the entry-level expectations of colleges and employers.

Henson shared that the P-16 Council will next focus on teacher issues – getting a supply of teachers, and encouraging people to want to become teachers, especially minorities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.